



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service
1222 Woodward Street
Orlando, Florida 32803
407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>

FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE

September 13, 2004

FLORIDA

GENERAL: Three tropical systems swept across Florida’s agricultural areas in August and early September. Because of continuous showers, topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies remained adequate to surplus with only a few scattered areas of short supplies in drier localities. During August, temperatures at the major stations averaged about normal. Daytime highs were mainly in the upper 80s to mid 90s, while nighttime lows were in the high 60s and low 70s.

Rainfall delayed some hay baling at the beginning of August. Peanuts were in good condition with over 95 percent of the acreage pegged; however, some peanuts in Jackson County showed distress due to high temperatures as well as a lack of precipitation. Tobacco harvesting was active. Breaks from the rains allowed most growers to resume spraying pesticides early in the month

Hurricane Charley and Tropical Storm Bonnie swept through the State in mid-August, which prevented some hay baling in wetter areas. Heavy rainfall in Santa Rosa helped alleviate moisture stress in cotton and peanuts. Tobacco suffered low yields as well as poor quality due to diseases. Peanut and corn harvesting was underway in Jackson County with growers getting above average corn yields and very good peanut yields. Pests were pressuring some cotton fields and some soybean acreage by the end of the month.

Tomato spotted wilt virus lowered yield prospects on most of the early-planted peanut acreage. In Jackson County, cotton leaves wilted with lower bolls on the early-planted acreage starting to open by the end of August. Corn harvesting remained ahead of schedule in Washington County. Producers in Madison County accelerated peanut digging due to the anticipation of prolonged wet weather. Peanuts, cotton, and soybeans were helped by precipitation associated with Hurricane Frances over Labor Day weekend. Some cotton plants in Washington County were setting bolls and squaring by late August with harvest expected to begin by early October.

PEANUTS: As of September 1, dryland peanuts needed rain to mature in the eastern Panhandle and some northern Peninsula localities.

Digging gained momentum in southern areas of production during August. Most acreage escaped damage from the tropical systems, mainly Tropical Storm Bonnie, passing over the area during August with only a few fields plowed up. Early reports indicate very little damage to the crop from Hurricane Frances, which passed over the growing area in early September, with growers currently assessing actual losses. Producers hope to harvest a record high 135,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from last year and 17,000 acres above the previous record high of 118,000 acres harvested in 1991. The increased demand for peanuts prompted growers to plant more acreage than in previous years. The September acreage forecast is 15,000 acres above the August estimate. Production is set at 418,500,000 pounds, up about thirteen percent from the August forecast of 372,000,000 pounds twenty-one percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 3,100 pounds per acre, equal to the August estimate but up 100 pounds from a year ago.

SUGARCANE: As of September 1, acreage for harvest remains unchanged from the August forecast of 420,000 acres for harvest, 37 tons per acre yield and 15,540,000 tons total production. Last year producers harvested 438,000 acres and averaged 39.3 tons per acre for a total production of 17,231,000 tons. Some harvesting was delayed due to the tropical storms passing through the area during August. Growers are currently making assessments of damage from Hurricane Frances, which passed over the growing area in early September.

TOBACCO: Tobacco harvesting was virtually complete by the end of August. Heavy, continuous showers throughout August lowered the quality of the leaf and led to disease infestations on a limited acreage. Growers expect to harvest 10,400,000 pounds, down about two percent from the August forecast and nearly 6 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 2,600 pounds per acre, down 50 pounds from August, but up 100 pounds from the 2003 yield. Acreage harvested at 4,000 acres is unchanged from August and down 9 percent from last year.

UNITED STATES

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 4.44 billion pounds, up 3 percent from last month and up 7 percent from 2003. Planted acres, at 1.43 million, are up 3 percent from the June estimate and up 6 percent from 2003. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.39 million acres, up 3 percent from August and up 6 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,188 pounds per acre, down 10 pounds from August but up 29 pounds from 2003. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 3.08 billion pounds, up 5 percent from August and up 11 percent from last year. Planted acres, at 1.00 million, are up 6 percent from the June estimate, and up 14 percent from 2003. Expected acreage for harvest, at 973,000, is up 6 percent from August and up 14 percent from 2003. Yields in the 4-State region are expected to average 3,165 pounds per acre, 18 pounds below August and 73 pounds below last year. As of August 29, peanuts in Alabama were rated 47 percent good to excellent and Georgia peanuts were rated 50 percent good to excellent.

SUGARCANE: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2004 is forecast at 31.7 million tons, 2 percent below the August forecast and 6 percent below 2003. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 961,600 acres for sugar and seed during the 2004 crop year, down 1 percent from August and 3 percent less than last year's final harvested area. Yield is forecast at 33.0 tons per acre, 0.4 ton below the previous forecast and 1.0 ton below the 2003 yield. In Louisiana, the harvested area forecast declined 10,000 acres from August. Louisiana's yield forecast also dropped by 1.0 ton, due to dry conditions in August. Hurricane Charley missed Florida's sugarcane-growing area, and acreage and yield forecasts are unchanged.

TOBACCO: Flue-cured tobacco production is expected to total 512 million pounds, down 1 percent since last month but 12 percent higher

than the 2003 crop. Growers plan to harvest 231,000 acres in 2004, down 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,215 pounds per acre, 23 pounds below the August forecast but up 258 pounds from the previous year. Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina have experienced heavy rains that reduced yield prospects.

CORN: Production is forecast at 11.0 billion bushels, up fractionally from last month and 8 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 149.4 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from August and 7.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Yields are forecast at record high levels in all Corn Belt States, except Minnesota and Wisconsin, as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season. However, brief periods of freezing temperatures in the northern Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains raised concerns about the crop being able to fully develop before a killing frost occurs.

SOYBEANS: Production is forecast at 2.84 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the August forecast but 17 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the second highest production on record. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 38.5 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from August. Below-normal temperatures and adequate moisture across most of the Corn Belt, the Great Plains, and the Delta in August favored the soybean crop during the critical stages of development. However, yield prospects declined in the northern tier of States due to cool weather. A brief period of freezing temperatures slowed the development of a crop already behind in maturity in North Dakota and Minnesota.

CROP PRODUCTION: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of September 1, 2004 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2003	For harvest 2004	2003	Indicated 2004		2003	Indicated 2004
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton ^{1/ 2/}	--	--	--	--	^{3/}	--	--
Peanuts	115.0	135.0	3,000	3,100	Lbs.	345,000	418,500
POTATOES:							
Winter ^{5/}	5.8	5.5	240	250	Cwt	1,392	1,375
Spring ^{5/}	28.6	22.5	280	249	Cwt	8,008	5,605
Sugarcane ^{5/}	438	420	39.3	37.0	Ton	17,231	15,540
Tobacco, Type 14	4.4	4.0	2,500	2,600	Lbs.	11,000	10,400
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	71,139	73,377	142.2	149.4	Bu.	10,113,887	10,960,710
Cotton, all ^{2/}	12,003.4	13,223.0	730	758	^{3/}	18,255.2	20,895.0
Other States ^{6/}	172	174	576	648	^{3/}	206.5	235.0
Hay, Alfalfa ^{5/}	23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	Ton	76,307	77,264
Hay, All Other ^{5/}	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.15	Ton	80,816	84,499
Peanuts for nuts ^{4/}	1,312	1,393	3,159	3,188	Lbs.	4,144,150	4,440,900
POTATOES:							
Winter ^{5/}	14.3	14.0	282	250	Cwt	4,027	3,500
Spring ^{5/}	84.7	71.7	288	266	Cwt	24,433	19,077
Summer ^{7/}	58.7	55.1	320	336	Cwt	18,766	18,487
Fall ^{7/}	1,090.9	1,022.8	376	^{8/}	Cwt	410,588	^{8/}
Rice ^{4/}	2,997	3,334	6,645	6,651	^{9/}	199,157	221,731
Sorghum for grain	7,798	6,916	52.7	68.3	Bu.	411,237	472,269
Soybeans for beans	72,321	73,655	33.4	38.5	Bu.	2,417,565	2,835,989
Sugarbeets	1,347.9	1,325.6	22.7	21.5	Ton	30,583	28,547
Sugarcane for sugar and seed	994.4	961.6	34.0	33.0	Ton	33,857	31,685
Tobacco, All	411.2	413.6	1,952	2,134	Lbs.	802,654	882,568
Tobacco, Types 11 - 14	233.4	231.0	1,957	2,215	Lbs.	456,690	511,700
Tobacco, Type 14	31.4	28.0	2,242	2,000	Lbs.	70,400	56,000
Wheat, all ^{5/}	52,839	50,556	44.2	42.0	Bu.	2,336,526	2,122,894
Winter ^{5/}	36,541	34,825	46.7	42.8	Bu.	1,707,069	1,489,408
Durum ^{5/}	2,869	2,521	33.7	35.3	Bu.	96,637	88,951
Other spring ^{5/}	13,429	13,210	39.7	41.2	Bu.	532,820	544,535

^{1/} Florida cotton included in U.S."Other States" below.

^{2/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton.

^{3/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

^{4/} Updated from "Acreage" released June 30, 2004.

^{5/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

^{6/} Other States include FL and KS. Individual State level estimates will be published in the "Crop Production 2004 Summary".

^{7/} 2003 crop revised.

^{8/} First forecast in November.

^{9/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight.